



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF: Shin-Ichi Yamaguchi et al.
SERIAL NO: 10/032,741 GROUP ART UNIT: 1733
FILED: October 22, 2001 EXAMINER: John L. Goff II
CUSTOMER NO.: 27162
FOR: Manufacturing Method of Belt and Manufacturing Apparatus
ATTY/DKT NO.: 505500-62

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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**REQUEST TO WITHDRAW FINALITY OF
FINAL REJECTION AS PREMATURE**

SIR:

Applicant filed a response to an Office Action dated September 10, 2003, on December 8, 2003. This paper refers to a Final Rejection dated March 10, 2004, issued as a result of that response.

The claims were previously rejected in the prior Office Action.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103 over Wood, and also over Ndebi et al. in view of Bliss in the Office Action of September 10, 2003. Claim 2 was not amended in the above noted response filed on December 8, 2003

The final Office Action dated March 10, 2004, now rejects claim 2 over Wood in view of Straughan and either one of Gansen or Bliss.

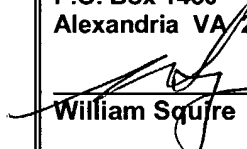
This is a new grounds of rejection not warranted by any amendment to the claims. Therefore, the finality of the Office Action of March 10, 2004, is premature and should be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-0678.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE


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Respectfully submitted,
Shin-Ichi Yamaguchi et al.


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